



WESTERN NEWS

Libby MT 59923

Wednesday & Friday

JUN 30 2004

Superior Clipping Service

Glendive MT 406-377-6612

Bryant joins CARD as respiratory therapist

Respiratory therapist Ashley Bryant has joined the Center for Asbestos-Related Disease.

Bryant was born and raised in Libby and graduated from Libby High School in 2001. She saw first-hand the impact of asbestos exposure on her community and wanted to do something to help. She decided to study respiratory therapy at the University of Montana's Missoula College of Technology and received her degree in May.

"I was very fortunate to have studied with a great group of fellow students, and we really interacted well with our professors," Bryant said. "The areas of study that I enjoyed most were pulmonary function, chest physical therapy, cardiopulmonary anatomy

physiology and pharmacology."

Bryant has already had some experience in performing respiratory therapy clinical rotations at Deaconess and Sacred Heart hospitals in Spokane, St. Patrick and Community hospitals in Missoula, St. Vincent's and Deaconess in Billings, Kalispell Regional Medical Center and St. John's Lutheran Hospital in Libby. She recently passed her state examination for certification as a registered respiratory therapist.

Earlier this year, an agreement between the Environmental Protection Agency, St. John's and the CARD has enabled the CARD to take over the role of performing Pulmonary Function Tests. The PFT machine was

provided to the community by EPA for asbestos-related disease patients.

Bryant spent her first few days getting acclimated to the CARD clinic routine and received PFT training under Robert O'Rourke, respiratory therapist at St. John's. She will also travel to Spokane for additional PFT training from Dr. Alan Whitehouse's respiratory specialist, Mary Kay Collins.

"We're very pleased to have Ashley join the CARD team as we will be able to more efficiently meet our patients' needs in the area of pulmonary function testing," said CARD medical director Dr. Brad Black.

When not busy taking care of patients at the CARD,

Bryant likes to bike, ski and rollerblade. She and her fiancé, Michael Day, plan to be married in August. Her father, Steve Bryant, is a longtime Libby resident who owns and manages the A-1 Conoco station.

"I'm glad Ashley has found a position right here in Libby as that has been her goal since she started school," Steve Bryant said.

The CARD provides diagnosis, treatment, monitoring and specialty care for people with ARD, as well as education and outreach for individuals and families who are facing hardship or other issues because of ARD. For more information on the programs provided by the CARD, call 293-9274.